

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 20 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to reiterate the Government of Yemen's full support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen as the only means to achieving sustainable peace in Yemen, based on the three terms of reference, namely, the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and implementation mechanism agreement, the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and Security Council resolutions, especially resolution 2216 (2015).

Despite the continuous reluctance of the Houthi rebels, the Government of Yemen has been actively engaged with the United Nations-led efforts, including the most recent Geneva consultation in September 2018, which the Houthi rebels refused to attend. However, my Government still believes that the international community could apply more pressure on the Houthi rebels in order to achieve a breakthrough in the Yemeni peace process.

Furthermore, having had a close look at the new draft resolution prepared by the United Kingdom, and after a careful review of the text, I am afraid that the draft clearly undermines Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and will negatively impact the United Nations-led peace process, in particular the forthcoming peace talks in Sweden. The Government underlines the importance of having any Security Council product support the United Nations-led peace process. Therefore, I am attaching hereto the position of the Government of Yemen regarding any intended Security Council product on Yemen (see annex).

I would much appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated to all the members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ahmed Awad **Binmubarak**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Position of the Government of Yemen regarding any intended Security Council resolution on Yemen

- Any new Security Council resolution should adhere to and mention clearly the three terms of reference that govern the United Nations-led peace process in Yemen: the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and implementation mechanism agreement, the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 2216 (2015). The failure of a new resolution to stress the centrality of these references will undermine the United Nations-led peace process and perpetuate the current conflict in Yemen.
- Any new resolution should continue the Security Council's tradition of "Reaffirming its support for the legitimacy of the President of Yemen, Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi, and reiterating its call to all parties and Member States to refrain from taking any actions that undermine the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen, and the legitimacy of the President of Yemen"; otherwise, it will be a wrong message to the Houthi rebels, encouraging them not to commit or interact with any upcoming peace talks organized by the Special Envoy for Yemen.
- Issuing a new Security Council resolution on Yemen, amid the current preparations for a new round of peace talks, will definitely impact the process and undermine the chances of its success, particularly if the document makes prejudgments of the peace talk outcomes.
- Any new Security Council resolution should condemn the repeated attacks carried out by the Houthi rebels against international maritime lanes in the southern Red Sea, including the random use of sea mines, which constitute a serious threat to international peace and security. Therefore, and in order to safeguard the international maritime lanes and to ensure the smooth passage of commercial ships, the international community should support the Yemeni Government in extending its control over all Yemeni territories, especially the western coastline that oversees the international maritime lane south of the Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.
- Any new Security Council resolution should draw attention to Iran's destructive involvement in the internal affairs of Yemen, such as its supplying the Houthi militia with arms, including ballistic missiles, and military experts. This has become an established fact, documented in the findings of the sanctions committee's Panel of Experts on Yemen, whose mandate is extended by paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2402 (2018). The findings noted that Iran is in non-compliance with the arms embargo imposed by paragraph 14 of resolution 2216 (2015), as well as resolution 2231 (2015).
- Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) sets the basis for the security arrangements of the peace process in Yemen, on which there is a consensus among the members of Council and international community. These security arrangements are the cornerstone to achieving sustainable peace in Yemen. Any attempt to overlook these security arrangements or place them after the political arrangements constitutes a violation of Security Council resolutions and would legitimize the presence of an armed militia possessing advanced military

capabilities in parallel to the State, thereby undermining the international law assertion of the State monopoly of military capabilities.

- Any demands for a ceasefire without a clear agreed implementing mechanism will only be wishful rhetoric and impractical, given that the Houthi rebels have violated all previous nine truces and have undermined all agreements and commitments, including the arrangements for Kuwait peace talks (Armistice Commission in Dhahran).
- It is important to underline that trust-building measures should be presented as one package in the upcoming talks to agree upon and implement, based on a timed and clear mechanism. As for the Central Bank of Yemen, it is important to show support for the measures taken by the Government to stabilize the currency exchange rate. The United Nations should call upon the international community to support the Central Bank, provide the necessary assistance to ensure depositing of the State's revenues from all over Yemen at the Central Bank. Furthermore, the United Nations should exercise pressure on the Houthi rebels to refrain from interfering and impeding the policies of the Central Bank and other commercial banks, most notably interventions by the Houthi leader, Adel Ahmed Khalil, who controls the monetary policies in Sana'a.
- The Government of Yemen carefully observes its obligations and commitments under international humanitarian Law and international human rights law. Meanwhile, the international community has the responsibility to exercise pressure on the Houthi militia to (a) ensure safe and expedited access to humanitarian assistance in all regions of Yemen; (b) refrain from targeting schools and health facilities or from using these civilian facilities for military purposes; (c) refrain from targeting civilians, exposing them to danger as a result of their extensive use of landmines in populated areas, and refrain from using civilians as human shields by preventing them from leaving conflict areas; and (d) stop recruiting children and sending them to the front lines.
- Any new Security Council resolution should underline that the United Nations mandate is clear and limited to ending the ongoing coup d'état and to restoring statehood legitimacy through a United Nations-led process between the Yemeni Government and the Houthi rebels. Any attempt to bring other parties to the negotiation table will definitely hinder the upcoming peace talks, rather legitimize the coup d'état and start another untimely national dialogue.